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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 13852 241739Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 EURE-00 SY-02 /030 W
----------036580 241801Z /53
P 241733Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0899

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13852

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, US, GW, OVIP (KOHL, HELMUT)
SUBJECT: VISIT TO US BY CDU CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL

REF: (A) BONN 11648, (B) STATE 168831,
(C) BONN 09014

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER AUGUST 24, KOHL'S BUNDESTAG OFFICE DIRECTOR AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR (TELTSCHIK) ASKED ABOUT WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING A POSSIBLE TRIP BY KOHL TO THE US IN THE FALL IN EITHER AN OCTOBER 11-14 OR OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1 TIME FRAME. WE REPLIED THAT IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SEE KOHL, BUT THAT WE WERE EXPECTING WORD SHORTLY ON THE QUESTION OF A MEETING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT. KOHL'S AIDE SAID THAT, BASED ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH KOHL, THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF A KOHL VISIT TO THE U.S. IF KOHL WOULD NOT MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT. THIS IMPLIED NO DISRESPECT FOR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE. IT WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF GERMAN DOMESTIC POLITICS. IF KOHL WENT TO AMERICA WITHOUT SEEING THE PRESIDENT, HE WOULD BE LAMPOONED BY THE GERMAN PRESS AND THE TRIP WOULD BE JUDGED A FAILURE BY DEFINITION. THIS WOULD
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HAVE BEEN THE CASE BEFORE BERLIN MAYOR STOBBE'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON; GIVEN THE STOBBE VISIT AND THE LARGE PUBLICITY GIVEN IN THE FRG TO HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, IT WAS DOUBLY THE CASE.

2. KOHL'S AIDE SAID THAT IF A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD BE POSSIBLE, PICKING A TIME FRAME WOULD BE

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NO PROBLEM FOR KOHL.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE KOHL'S AIDE MADE THE COMMENTS IN PARA ONE AT KOHL'S DIRECTION BASED ON EARLIER CONTINGENCY PLANNING.
MEEHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Concepts: VISITS, POLITICAL LEADERS
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Subject: VISIT TO US BY CDU CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL
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